Message Text

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PAGE 01 LOME 00801 110135Z ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 AID-05 /052 W

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R 100804Z MAR 78 FM AMEMBASSY LOME TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3734

UNCLAS LOME 801

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB EAID OEXC SCUL

SUBJ: AFL-CIO CONVENTION DECEMBER 8-14, 1977

REF: STATE 48025

1. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH AWUTE FOLIKPO,
SECRETAIRE CONFEDERAL CHARGE DU SECTEUR PUBLIC, WHO
ATTENDED SUBJECT PROGRAM, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOALS
SET FORTH IN REFTEL PARA ONE WERE MET. AWUTE HAS
COMMENTED FAVORABLY ON THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONVENTION.
HE WAS IMPRESSED BY GEORGE MEANY WHO, HE SAID, DESPITE
HIS AGE KEPT UP WITH ALL THE EVENTS, DOMINATED THE
DELEGATONS FROM THE PODIUM AND WHOM HE DESBRIBED AS
BEING "VERY SOLID." AWUTE JUST RECEIVED A PHOTO OF
HIMSELF SHAKING MR MEANY'S HAND, WHICH HE SHOWED THE
REPORTING OFFICER WITH GREAT PLEASURE.

2. THE CONSULTATIONS THAT APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN THE MOST RELEVANT AND INTERESTING FOR AWUTE WERE HIS VISIT WITH THE NEW YORK CITY MUNICIPAL UNIONS. THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT AND THE PRESSURES IMPOSED ON THEM BY A BANKRUPT CITY MOST CLOSELY PARALLEL THE REALITY OF UNIONS IN TOGO. LISTENTING TO HOW THEY COPED WITH THEIR VERSION OF "RESPONSIBLE PARTICIPATION" HAD MEANING FOR HIM.

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3. AS FOR SUGGESTIONS FOR PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT, HE SAID IT APPEARED THAT NOT ALL GROUPS VISITED HAD BEEN NOTIFIED IN ADVANCE. AS A RESULT SOME OF THE CALLS WERE NOT VERY USEFUL. HE FOUND THAT THE \$45 PER DIEM DID NOT GO VERY FAR, ESPECIALLY WHEN ONE WAS DEPENDENT ON TAXIS FOR TRANSPORT. ALSO, FOR THOSE THAT LACK THE

LANGUAGE, GETTING ACROSS TOWN TO MEET THE INTERTRETER IS A TRAUMA. THEY SHOULD BE PICKED UP AT THE HOTELS.

4. EMBASSY OFFICERS SEE AWUTE REGULARLY AT LABOR AND AALC SPONSORED FUNCTIONS. HE IS ALSO ON EMBASSY GUEST LISTS. BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF THE SMALL COMMUNITY IN LOME, NO SPECIFIC FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES ARE PLANNED. PALMER

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TAGS: ELAB, EAID, OEXC, SCUL, AFL-CIO

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